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LB 280, 422

killing an officer, under the circumstances found in this bill, an aggravating circumstance. What my amendment does is to go to the same thing, that the Legislature is giving a statement as to why LB 422 is going to put...be put into place, and what should be done to prevent the killing of law enforcement officers to the extent such a thing is possible. And what that amendment says is that the weapon that kills these officers that we're trying to protect is by far the handgun over every other type of weapon. That the Legislature in saying that it's going to be a terrible thing if you kill these officers, the Legislature is saying that it is opposed to the public in general carrying the instrumentality concealed that is going to kill these officers. And furthermore that this position that the Legislature is taking in LB 422 is for the safety of the law enforcement officers throughout this state. It is interesting that the very arguments that were given to support this bill are being offered against an amendment which incorporates those arguments. This that I'm offering is no different from any kind of intent language that is offered to a bill. We know that intent language does not actually have the force of law in that it states conduct that is prohibited and provides a punishment for it, it gives the Legislature's finding or reason for doing a thing, it gives the Legislature's point of view, and that is what this language does. It does it in this bill as much as there is an attempt to do it in LB 280 or any other bill where we present consent...intent language. And since there is a reference to other sections of statute, 29-2521, 29-2522, which talks about comparing homicides and things that don't bear directly on this aggravating circumstance in 422, it's clear that we're dealing with more than just this one aggravating circumstance, we're dealing with the entire panoply of laws that relate to the imposition of the death penalty. And I think this amendment fits exactly into the mix, because it deals with the instrumentality by which law enforcement officers are killed, and it states the Legislature's opposition to it, while at the same time expressing the concern that the Legislature has for the safety of these officers. I do believe the amendment, on its face, is germane to this bill.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Matzke. Upon reviewing the germaneness rule, the pertinent sentence seems to be that "germane amendments relate only to details of